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Florida Department of Health in Bay County Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program Results - There are no advisories for any Healthy Beaches sampling locations.

Contact:

Joe Scully
850-481-4806

Joseph.Scully@flhealth.gov



Panama City, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in Bay County, DOH-Bay, conducts saltwater beach water quality monitoring in accordance with the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. Water samples are collected **twice a month between March 1st and October 31st**. The samples are checked for **enteric bacteria** that normally inhabit the intestinal tract of humans and animals. The presence of enteric bacteria **can be an indication of fecal pollution**, which may come from storm water runoff, pets and wildlife, and human sewage. **Poor** results are posted as an **“Advisory”** at the affected beaches.

There are no advisories in effect for any Bay County Healthy Beaches sampling locations.

Healthy Beaches advisories are issued **to protect swimmers from increased risk of gastrointestinal illnesses**. At a **lower occurring level**, there may also be increased risks of **upper respiratory infections, skin rashes, and ear infections**. Healthy Beach advisories are **not related to Necrotizing fasciitis**, a rare complication.



Sampling is usually done on **Mondays** with **results** on **Tuesday**, with exception of holidays. Results are shared at Bay.FloridaHealth.gov, through media releases, and **real-time** on the Florida Healthy Beaches page at FloridaHealth.gov and **search for “Healthy Beaches”**.

Florida Healthy Beaches Program Categories are; Good = 0-35 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water, Moderate = 36-70 Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water, and **Poor = 71 or greater Enterococci per 100 milliliters of marine water**. If **levels are above 70**, **Bay CHD notifies** the local **Florida Department of Environmental Protection** for further investigation.

If you have any questions, please contact the DOH-Bay Environmental Health Division at 850-481-4806 or visit the Department of Health’s Internet Beach Water Quality website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/healthy-environments/beach-water-quality/index.html>.

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